Question 183 dated 6th May, 1986 and state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government against NCCF and its involved officers for violation of the Export Trade Control Regulation, so far;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the scandal involving theft of foreign exchange worth Rs. 4 crores; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) The NCCF have filed a criminal case in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay against the party on the plea that the party fraudulently exported rice in the name of the NCCF. The matter was also enquired into by CID, Bombay who have, inter-alia, recommended that the case be also investigated by the CBI. The matter has been taken up accordingly.

Loss to NCCF on import of Dry-dates

2777. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCCF was debarred by Central Licensing Area w.e.f. 28th January, 1985 to import any goods into India for a period of 5 years for indulging into serious irregularities committed by its Regional Manager (West) Bombay by violating conditions of Import Licence for dry fruits issued in June, 1982;

(b) whether despite this order, Regional Manager, (West) renewed the letter of credit in March, 1985 covering the import of 1500 M.T. of Dry-Dates worth about Rs. 3 crores;

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the Regional Manager (West), so far; and

(d) whether the Dry-Dates were stranded at the Bombay Port for one year due to the negligence of Regional Manager (West) and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) NCCF was debarred by the Central Licensing Area on 24-1-1985 to import any goods for a period of 5 years. On an appeal filed by NCCF on 14-2-1985, against that order, the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports allowed on 11-7-85 clearance of the consignment of 1500 MTs of dry dates which was against firm commitment and backed by irrevocable letter of credit dated 19-1-1985 made prior to the date of passing debarrment order on 24-1-1985. However, subsequently the debarrment period was reduced to three licensing periods.

(b) No, Sir. The letter of credit was renewed in March, 1985 for import of 1500 MTs of dry dates because of the above order.

(c) and (d) The irregularities in the import and sale of dry dates have been referred to CBI, who have since started regular investigations. The NCCF had also completed the departmental enquiry against Regional Manager (West) for his lapses and have decided to impose major penalty on him. The case has been referred the CVC in this regard.

Release of payment to M/s. Dharamraj Neyuse and Co. Dubai by NCCF

2778. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Controller of Accounts and Finance of

NCCF had authorised the local Bank on 20-5-85 to release payment to M/s. Dharamraj Neyuse and Co. Dubai against retirement of documents pertaining to transportation of Dry Dates (1500 MTs) for Iraq to Bombay even after expiry of letter of Credit;

(b) whether the CAF had favoured the above party in violation of rules of NCCF Government; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the CAF?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) The NCCF have reported that the Controller of Accounts & Finance had not issued any authorisation. However, the irregularities committed in the import of dry dates have been referred to CBI who have started regular investigation and action will be taken against those found guilty as per law.

Schemes for more employment opportunity

2779. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked all the Ministries to work out schemes and programmes to generate more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the objectives of these instructions; and

(d) what progress has been made by the Ministries concerned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The various Ministries are already implementing a number of beneficiary/employment oriented schemes/programmes like the Self-employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Scheme for Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), etc.

Telecast of TV Serial 'Mahabharat'

2780. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised telecast timing of T.V. Serial 'Mahabharat';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the objectives for this revision of timings;

(d) whether Government have also revised timings for telecast of TV serial 'Ramayana'; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith objectives therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e) Telecast of the serial 'Mahabharat' started on Sundays at 11.30 a.m. with effect from 2nd October, 1988. Subsequently, the extended part of the serial 'Ramayana' also became available for scheduling. Even though the first part of this serial had been telecast on Sundays morning at 9.30 a.m., it was not considered desirable from viewership angle to telecast the two epics on Sundays morning. Hence, it has been decided to telecast 'Ramayana' at 9.00 p.m. on Fridays beginning from 9th December 1988. The telecast timing of Mahabharat has also been